

# Blog i360™ Training

**BLOG i360™**  
The Web site that works for you



## Customizing with CSS for Blog i360™

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## CSS Style Sheets for Blog i360™

When it comes to customizing your Blog i360™ site, the CSS Editor makes this very easy. While a knowledge of CSS is ideal, here I'll show you some simple ways you can change the look and feel of your site.

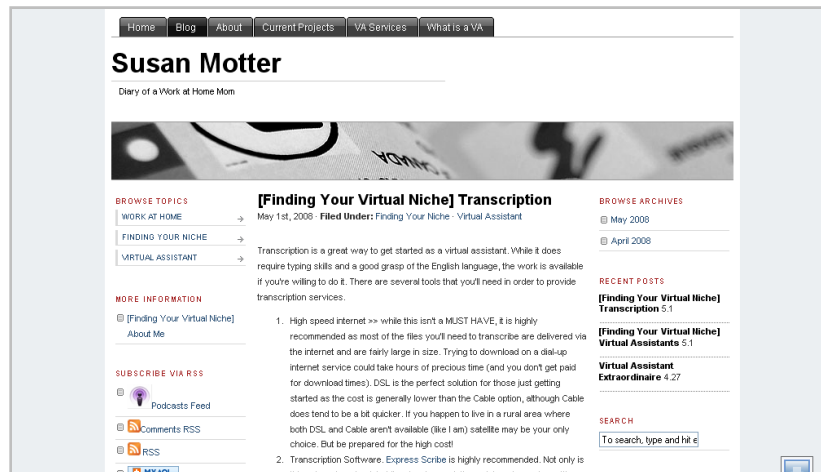
*Please note that while we're providing you this simple "cheat sheet", our support desk cannot help in customizing your site. We provide the "Reset Default" button to help you restore any changes you make to your site.*

## Selecting A Skin

The first thing you want to do is select a skin for your site. I find that either the Cutline or Morning After skins are the easiest to customize.



These tend to be less graphic intensive, making it easier to customize. Here's what the site looks like in its default "Morning After" format:





## First Step - Custom Headers

Really, the most basic customization you can do is having a custom header. A header graphic can affect the look and feel of your site and make each site unique whether you change any of the CSS or not.

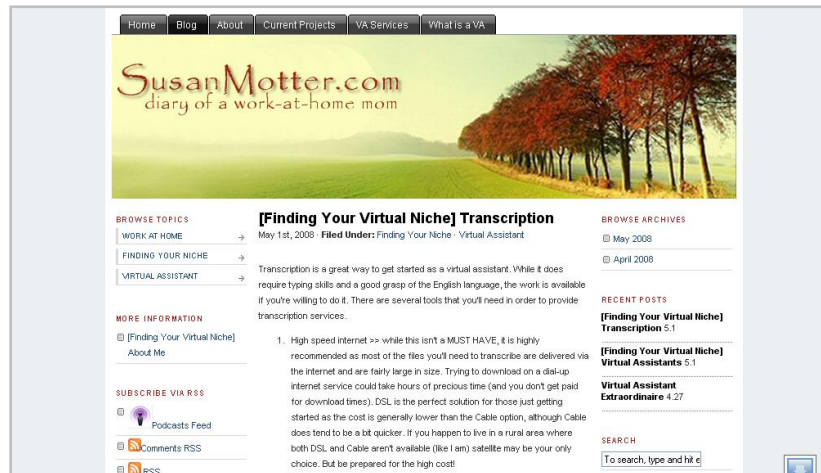
To create a Custom Header with a graphic, you'll want to upload your graphic to the File Manager, which is located under the "Manage" tab of your dashboard. Be sure to "refresh" and copy the File URL for that image.

Next, go to "Marketing Pro" >> "Header Editor". Here you'll remove all the previous code added, then add your custom graphics header. Here is a sample of the code you'll need, although your tags will vary, depending on your site.

```

```

With just this change, we're able to create this look:



## Customizing the CSS

To access the Custom CSS, go to "Design Center" and click on the "CSS Editor" sub-menu. You'll want to copy all the code within the text box there, check on "Custom CSS" and Save Settings.

Paste all the code you just copied into the text box. You'll be making all your changes within the "Custom CSS".



## Changing the Background

The next step I'll take is changing the background color of the page. You'll notice here that the background is fairly blue, and the green in the graphic may be just the right tone. So using my graphics program (I use an older version of JASC Paint Shop Pro for my graphics), I will pull the color that is behind the logo.

The HTML color code for this area is #FAFBBF. If you need assistance finding this HTML code, here is a great website that has a rainbow of colors with their HTML codes: <http://www.computerhope.com/htmcolor.htm>

### The CSS for Background Colors

Within the CSS Code, you'll search for the following:

```
body {
    margin:0 auto;
    background:#ebeff2;
    color:#333;
    font-size:.9em;
    line-height:150%;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-align:center;
}
```

This is the “body” tag, which controls not only the background, but also the main font of the site. You're looking for the “background”. Replace the #ebeff2 with the HTML color code of your choosing. My body tag now looks like:

```
body {
    margin:0 auto;
    background:#FAFBBF;
    color:#333;
    font-size:.9em;
    line-height:150%;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-align:center;
}
```



Here are the results:



## Changing the Font Size

I tend to prefer slightly larger font sizes, especially in the article area.

If I'm changing the font-size site-wide, I would do that again within the body tag:

```
body {
    margin:0 auto;
    background:#FAFBFF;
    color:#333;
    font-size:.9em;
    line-height:150%;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-align:center;
}
```

If I only want to change the font-size within the actual post, I would do that within the "div.post" tag:

```
div.post code {
    font-size:.85em;
}
```



Here are some sample font sizes for you:

This is a .85em font size

This is a .95em font size

This is a 1em font size

This is a 1.25em font size

This is a 1.5em font size

It may take a little while to get the font size just right, but you can play with it until you find what you're comfortable with. I've changed this site to font-size: 1em.





## Changing Font Colors

The next thing I want to do is change some of the font colors that are used here to match my header a little better. The sidebar titles are a little too red, and I'd like the links to be green rather than blue.

First I need to find what colors I'd like to use. I'll pull the orange from my logo for my sidebar titles, and the green of the fields for the links.

Orange = #A31F08 Green = #758F12

Now, where do I apply them?

The sidebars are designated with #leftsidebar and #rightsidebar, while the titles are designated with #leftsidebar h2 and #rightsidebar h2, as shown below:

```
#leftSidebar h2 {
    margin:0 0 0 0;
    padding:5px 0;
    color:#a11b1b;
    font-size:.8em;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-transform:uppercase;
    letter-spacing:0.1em;
    word-wrap:break-word;
}

#rightsidebar h2 {
    margin:0 0 0 0;
    padding:5px 0;
    color:#a11b1b;
    font-size:.8em;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-transform:uppercase;
    letter-spacing:0.1em;
    word-wrap:break-word;
}
```

“Color” is where the font color for that tag is assigned. Right now the color is #a11b1b. What I really want to do is replace ALL the red tags, so I will do a search within the style sheet to find all #a11b1b codes and replace them with #A31F08 .



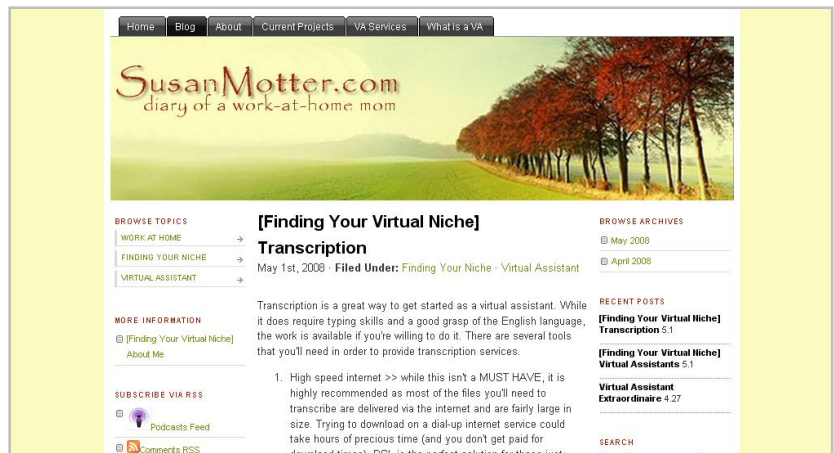
(To do this within Windows, whatever browser you're using, hit CTRL+F on your keyboard, then enter a11b1b and search. Every time a match is found, paste in your color preference, in my case A31F08.)

In this case, this color code is ONLY in the sidebar titles.

Next, I want to replace the blue links with green. Again, this is predominantly in the sidebars, so I will look for sidebar links which will be designated with the #leftsidebar and #rightsidebar tags, followed by "a" which is the tag for a link.

```
#leftSidebar a,#leftSidebar a:link,#leftSidebar a:visited,
#leftSidebar a:active {
    color:#224970;
    font-weight:normal;
    text-decoration:none;
}
```

As we did for the Sidebar Titles, we'll be replacing the "Color" tag with our preferred color, completing a search through the entire CSS sheet to be sure all the blue is replaced with the green of our choice.





## Block Title in Sidebars

This is a slightly more advanced bit of code we'll be implementing, so I highly suggest you create a back up of your CSS Style sheet before you do this.

Again, we'll be working with the #leftsidebar h2 and the #rightsidebar h2, your sidebar titles. In staying with our theme, I'll be making my "block" orange, and having the "font color" be white.

```
#leftSidebar h2 {
    margin:0 0 0 0;
    padding:5px 0;
    color:#a11b1b;
    font-size:.8em;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-transform:uppercase;
    letter-spacing:0.1em;
    word-wrap:break-word;
}

#rightsidebar h2 {
    margin:0 0 0 0;
    padding:5px 0;
    color:#a11b1b;
    font-size:.8em;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-transform:uppercase;
    letter-spacing:0.1em;
    word-wrap:break-word;
}
```

In each of these sections we'll need to add two lines of code:

```
background: #a11b1b;
display: block;
```

The background code designates the color of the background, while the display code is saying to display the entire block. Without this line, the background color will ONLY display behind the text.

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We will also need to change the font color, in this case we'll make it white.

I also want to add a little more "padding" so the text isn't pushed so close to that left-hand edge. You'll notice within the CSS: padding:5px 0; This code states that the padding above and below the text is 5px, while the padding on the left and right of the text is 0. We'll change the 0 to a 2px padding.

Here is the complete code for the sidebar titles:

```
#leftSidebar h2 {
    margin:0 0 0 0;
    padding:5px 2px;
    background:#a11b1b;
    color: #FFFFFF;
    display: block;
    font-size:.8em;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-transform:uppercase;
    letter-spacing:0.1em;
    word-wrap:break-word;
}

#rightsidebar h2 {
    margin:0 0 0 0;
    padding:5px 2px;
    background:#a11b1b;
    color: #FFFFFF;
    display: block;
    font-size:.8em;
    font-family:Helvetica, Arial, 'Lucida Grande', Verdana,
        sans-serif;
    text-transform:uppercase;
    letter-spacing:0.1em;
    word-wrap:break-word;
}
```



## Small Changes Make a BIG Difference

Just these few changes can make a HUGE difference in the look and feel of your site.



There are many more things you can do to personalize your site, such as including images within your “Site Includes” editors and within your posts! And of course, diving deeper into the CSS Style Sheets.